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October 10, 1961

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 163

TO: The Secretary of Defense  
SUBJECT: Deployment of U.S. Military Forces

The President today approved the following Department of Defense recommendations:

1. Deploy to Europe, starting on November 1, eleven Air National Guard squadrons and one Tactical Control group.
2. Return from Europe to the continental United States seven Air Force squadrons of the Tactical Air Command.
3. Preposition in Europe the equipment of one Armored Division and one Infantry Division.
4. Revise Operation LONG THRUST to deploy battle groups from the 4th Infantry Division in place of the 101st Airborne Division, and through a series of such exercises to provide for the rotation among the five battle groups of the 4th Infantry Division so as to have in Europe, for an indefinite period, after the initiation of Operation LONG THRUST, at least two combat ready battle groups plus supporting elements.
5. Deploy to Europe the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment with attached Intelligence Detachment. The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment is now stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland. Following movement to Europe, it will be replaced by the 153rd Armored Cavalry Regiment which is one of the National Guard units called to active duty on October 15.

cc: Secretary of State  
General Taylor  
Mrs. Lincoln  
Mr. Bundy  
Mr. Smith  
NSC Files

McGeorge Bundy

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